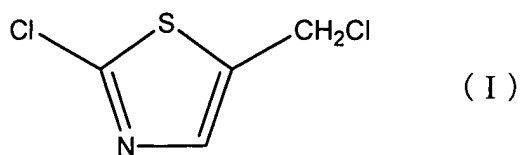


Amendments to the Claims

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole represented by the formula (I):



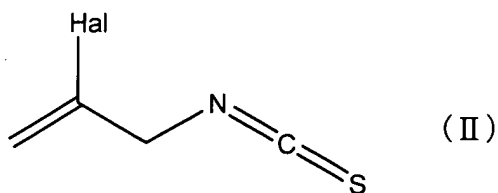
which consists essentially of ~~comprises~~:

treating a crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole represented by the formula (I) with a lower alcohol, and then

distilling the treated 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole.

8. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 7, wherein the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is treated with the lower alcohol by adding the lower alcohol to the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole, followed by stirring.

9. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 7, wherein the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is a reaction mixture obtained by reacting a 2-halogenoallyl isothiocyanate represented by the general formula (II):



wherein Hal represents a chlorine atom or a bromine atom, with a chlorinating agent in the presence of a solvent, or

wherein the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is a residue obtained by distilling the solvent from the reaction mixture.

10. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 9, wherein the crude 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole is a residue obtained by distilling the solvent from the reaction mixture.

11. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 7, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.

12. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 8, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.

13. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 9, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.

14. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 10, wherein the lower alcohol is methanol.

15. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 9, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.

16. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 10, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.

17. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 13, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.

18. (Previously presented) The process for purifying 2-chloro-5-chloromethyl-1,3-thiazole according to claim 14, wherein Hal is a chlorine atom.